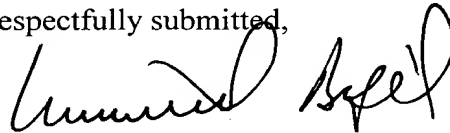


REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the continued thorough examination of the present application and the continued indication by the Examiner that Claims 11-20 and 30-38 are allowed, and that Claims 2-5 and 22-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to place the present application in condition for allowance, Claims 2-5 and 22-25 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of Claim 2 into Claim 1, by incorporating the recitations of original Claim 1 into Claim 5, by incorporating the recitations of Claim 22 into Claim 21, and by incorporating the recitations of original Claim 21 into Claim 25. Claims 3 and 23 have been amended to depend from respective Claims 1 and 2, and Claims 2 and 22 have been canceled. Moreover, by virtue of these amendments, the remaining rejected claims now depend from an allowable claim.

The above amendments have been made to place the present application in condition for allowance, and shall not be construed as an admission that rejected Claims 1, 6-10, 21 and 26-29 are unpatentable. In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the Claims 1, 3-21 and 23-38, and passing the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



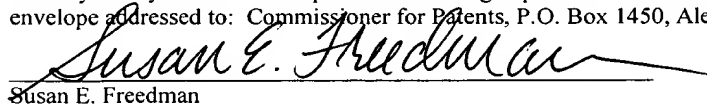
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 20, 2004.



Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: April 20, 2004